

# North Levantine Arabic

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

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# 1 Overview

<b>Language family:</b>	Afro-Asiatic (Semitic)
<b>Countries:</b>	Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
<b>Number of speakers:</b>	24.6 million
<b>Agreement features:</b>	gender, number, person
<b>Attested word orders:</b>	SV, VS
<b>Coordination types:</b>	and, or

(The data were elicited with a native speaker from Syria.<sup>1</sup>)

## 2 Patterns for gender

### 2.1 Coordination with “and”

#### 2.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
	fem	masc
<b>fem</b>	fem	masc
<b>masc</b>	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (1) a. el-rrijal w el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u  
the-man and the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
‘The man and the woman are running.’  
b. el-marra w el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u  
the-woman and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
‘The woman and the man are running.’

#### 2.1.2 VS order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
	fem	masc
<b>fem</b>	fem	masc
<b>masc</b>	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (2) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-rrijal w el-marra  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man and the-woman  
‘The man and the woman are running.’

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<sup>1</sup>Thanks to A. Al-Ghanem for her help.

- b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-marra w el-rrijal  
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman and the-man  
 'The woman and the man are running.'

## 2.2 Coordination with “or”

### 2.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (3) a. el-rrijal ?aw el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u  
 the-man or the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
 'The man or the woman are running.'  
 b. el-marra ?aw el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u  
 the-woman or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
 'The woman or the man are running.'

### 2.2.2 VS order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (4) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-rrijal ?aw el-marra  
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man or the-woman  
 'The man or the woman are running.'  
 b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-marra ?aw el-rrijal  
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman or the-man  
 'The woman or the man are running.'

## 3 Patterns for number

### 3.1 Coordination with “and”

#### 3.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

### Examples:

- (5) el-ssabi w el-rrijal ʔam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud  
the-boy and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run  
'The boy and the man are running.'
- (6) a. el-ssabi w el-rrijaal ʔam y-erkud-u  
the-boy and the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
'The boy and the men are running.'
- b. el-sseby-an w el-rrijal ʔam y-erkud-u  
the-boy-PL and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
'The boys and the man are running.'

### 3.1.2 VS order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

### Examples:

- (7) ʔam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud el-ssabi w el-rrijal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy and the-man  
'The boy and the man are running.'
- (8) a. ʔam y-erkud-u el-ssabi w el-rrijaal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy and the-men  
'The boy and the men are running.'
- b. ʔam y-erkud-u el-sseby-an w el-rrijal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL and the-man  
'The boys and the man are running.'

## 3.2 Coordination with “or”

### 3.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

### Examples:

- (9) el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijal ?am y-erkud-u/??y-erkud  
the-boy or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run  
'The boy or the man are running.'
- (10) a. el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijaal ?am y-erkud-u  
the-boy or the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
'The boy or the men are running.'
- b. el-sseby-an ?aw el-rrijal ?am y-erkud-u  
the-boy-PL or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL  
'The boys or the man are running.'

### 3.2.2 VS order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

### Examples:

- (11) ?am y-erkud-u/??y-erkud el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy or the-man  
'The boy or the man are running.'
- (12) a. ?am y-erkud-u el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijaal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy or the-men  
'The boy or the men are running.'
- b. ?am y-erkud-u el-sseby-an ?aw el-rrijal  
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL or the-man  
'The boys or the man are running.'

## 4 Patterns for person

### 4.1 Coordination with "and"

#### 4.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl	

### Examples:

- (13) a. ?ana w ?nta ?am n-erkud  
I and you.MASC PROG 1PL-run  
'I and you are running.'
- b. ?nta w ?ana ?am n-erkud  
you.MASC and I PROG 1PL-run  
'You and I are running.'
- c. ?ana w huwe ?am n-erkud  
I and he PROG 1PL-run  
'I and he are running.'
- d. huwe w ?ana ?am n-erkud  
he and I PROG 1PL-run  
'He and I are running.'
- e. ?nta w huwe ?am t-erkud-u/??t-erkud  
you.MASC and he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run  
'You and he are running.'
- f. huwe w ?nta ?am t-erkud-u  
he and you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL  
'He and you are running.'

#### 4.1.2 VS order

**Pattern:** Both closest conjunct agreement and resolved agreement (following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3) are possible.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl/2sg		2sg
3	1pl/3sg	2sg/3sg	

#### Examples:

- (14) a. ?am n-erkud ?ana w ?nta  
PROG 1PL-run I and you.MASC  
'I and you are running.'
- b. ?am n-erkud/t-erkud ?nta w ?ana  
PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run you and I  
'You and I are running.'
- c. ?am n-erkud ?ana w huwe  
PROG 1PL-run I and he  
'I and he are running.'
- d. ?am n-erkud/y-erkud huwe w ?ana  
PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he and I  
'He and I are running.'
- e. ?am t-erkud ?nta w huwe  
PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC and he  
'You and he are running.'
- f. ?am t-erkud/y-erkud huwe w ?nta  
PROG 2.MASC-run/3.MASC-run he and you.MASC  
'He and you are running.'

## 4.2 Coordination with “or”

### 4.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl/??2sg	1pl/??3sg
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl/2sg	

**Examples:**

- (15) a. ?ana ?aw ?nta      ?am n-erkud/??t-erkud  
I or you.MASC PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run  
‘I or you are running.’
- b. ?nta      ?aw ?ana ?am n-erkud  
you.MASC or I PROG 1PL-run  
‘You or I are running.’
- c. ?ana ?aw huwe ?am n-erkud/y-erkud  
I or he PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run  
‘I or he are running.’
- d. huwe ?aw ?ana ?am n-erkud  
he or I PROG 1PL-run  
‘He or I are running.’
- e. ?nta      ?aw huwe ?am t-erkud-u/t-erkud  
you.MASC or he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run  
‘You or he are running.’
- f. huwe ?aw ?nta      ?am t-erkud-u/??t-erkud  
he or you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL//2.MASC-run  
‘He or you are running.’

### 4.2.2 VS order

**Pattern:** You get closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	2sg		2sg
3	?1pl/3sg	3sg	

**Examples:**

- (16) a. ?am n-erkud ?ana ?aw ?nta  
PROG 1PL-run I or you.MASC  
‘I or you are running.’
- b. ?am t-erkud      ?nta      ?aw ?ana  
PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or I  
‘You or I are running.’

- c. ʕam n-erkud ʔana ʔaw huwe  
 PROG 1PL-run I or he  
 'I or he are running.'
- d. ʕam ʔn-erkud/y-erkud huwe ʔaw ʔana  
 PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he or I  
 'He or I are running.'
- e. ʕam t-erkud ʔnta ʔaw huwe  
 PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or he  
 'You or he are running.'
- f. ʕam y-erkud huwe ʔaw ʔnta  
 PROG 3.MASC-run he or you.MASC  
 'He or you are running.'